Steps to increase sea-lift capabilities of the Navy

1541. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRIK. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Navy is taking to increase sea-lift capabilities after the recent Tsunami;

(b) whether the Navy felt, at any time, to acquire landing platform docks or large amphibious vessels to ensure that relief material is reached to the disaster-affected areas quickly; and

(c) if so, steps taken by the Navy to acquire such vessels?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Indian Navy are exploring to possibility of acquisition of an old landing platform dock from USA to upgrade its sea-lift capabilities, taking into account various aspects like its price, residual life, utility etc.

Arms Deals with US and Russia

1542. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had arms deals with US and Russia;

(b) if so, whether delegations from US and Russia visited India in the month of September-October, 2005 and had discussions to set up units to solve repairs issues for weapon systems for Russia;

(c) if so, whether US high power delegation visited India and had assured to come back again with clarifications sought by the end users;

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the talk held and to what extent clarifications have been sought; and

(e) what are the agreements reached with the US delegations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.